

HOUSE BILL NO. 677

INTRODUCED BY D. BARTEL

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS FROM PURCHASING AGRICULTURAL LAND; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 3], unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Agricultural land" means class three property as defined in 15-6-133.

(2) "Nonprofit corporation" means an organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(c), as amended.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Acquisition of agricultural land by nonprofit corporations -- prohibited.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), nonprofit corporations may not purchase agricultural land in parcels larger than 80 acres on or after [the effective date of this act].

(2) This section does not apply to:

(a) churches or religious corporations;

(b) schools, colleges, or universities;

(c) hospitals, medical research organizations, or facilities that care for the elderly or handicapped;

(d) organizations that provide low-income housing;

(e) cemetery corporations;

(f) organizations that operate residential treatment centers; or

(g) organizations that provide housing to military veterans.

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Attorney general notification.** The attorney general shall notify existing

1 Montana nonprofit organizations by mail of the provisions of [section 2].

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3 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$1 from the state general fund to  
4 the department of justice for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for the purpose of [section 3].

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6 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified  
7 as an integral part of Title 35, chapter 2, and the provisions of Title 35, chapter 2, apply to [sections 1 and 2].

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9 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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11 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Applicability. [This act] applies to any acquisition of agricultural land by  
12 a nonprofit corporation that is not finalized prior to [the effective date of this act].

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